



Lt. Governor Skillman's November in Review

Hoosiers have been focused on the future during November. Leaders in communities from Brownsburg, Fort Wayne, Wabash, Lafayette and Huntington - just to name a few - have been hard at work to make the last few weeks of 2009 a springboard for the new year.

Economic Development

I spent the first few days of November down South - in Charlotte, North Carolina - with the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce and 60 business leaders from Central Indiana. I met with a number of Charlotte business leaders to talk about the benefits of doing business with Indiana and shared best practices in energy, motorsports and mass transit. Before returning home, I spoke at a joint dinner, talking to both the Indianapolis and Charlotte delegations about the state of Indiana's economy. View videos from my trip at www.youtube.com/indianaltgov.



The trip was another powerful reminder that Indiana is in much better shape than most other states. We are one of only a handful of states that has not raised taxes or sacrificed education to pay for basic services. We've kept our arms open to businesses, no matter the size, and kept an eye on the future, with projects like the [Hoosier Heartland Industrial Corridor](#).

I spoke at the annual meeting for

Lt. Governor Skillman presents a Half Century award to the Jasper Lumber Company, Inc., in business since 1946.

this critical economic development project, and talked about the tremendous impact the corridor will have on the counties along its route. The Corridor is on track to be finished soon, and the leaders from that north central region of our state are anxious to reap the rewards of the many years of hard work they've invested in it. Any company would tell you that a safe and modern infrastructure is one of the best foundations we can lay for a strong economy - especially a company that's been doing business in Indiana for many years.

I joined Governor Daniels to award 97 Century and Half-Century Awards to Hoosiers who have been in business for 50 or 100 years. This annual award ceremony gathers some of the most impressive Hoosier business people in the state - those who've weathered the ups and downs of the market and know how to keep their companies going strong for the long haul.

Indiana Main Street Program

Several of those award winners hailed from cities and towns where the Indiana Main Street program is helping Hoosiers realize their goals for economic and community development. One of those communities, Huntington, was one of the latest to become an Indiana Main Street community. I spent the day with the local Kiwanis and Optimists, talking about economic development and I joined leaders to celebrate the new tools Huntington has to build its future through the Main Street program.

More than \$4 billion have been invested in Main Street communities since 1985, creating jobs and jumpstarting businesses across the state. I honored all the new Main Street communities and awarded outstanding members at the [Indiana Main Street](#) Awards in the Statehouse in November as well. Those communities have benefited from grant dollars and strategic planning that have bridged the



Lt. Governor Skillman congratulates Huntington leaders and residents on their participation in the Indiana Main Street Program.

gap between goals and finished projects.

Hoosier Agriculture



Lt. Governor Skillman accepts the Indiana Poultry Association's Donation of more than 145,000 pounds of poultry outside her office in the Statehouse.

I spent time with a group this month that is focused on bridging a different kind of gap - the growing gap between the agriculture industry and our modern lifestyles. The National Farm-City Lunch was held in Indianapolis, and I spoke about the importance of helping Hoosiers connect the grocery store with the farms and fields around us. Especially at this time of year, with so many Hoosiers fighting hunger, it's all the more important to support our farmers and do all we can to ensure a safe, affordable and abundant food supply.

The Indiana Poultry Association certainly does their part to keep Hoosiers fed. They donate generously year round, and I welcomed them to my office in the Statehouse for their annual donation to Indiana's food banks this year.

More than [145,000 pounds of poultry products](#) will be distributed through the Shepherd Community Center to food banks across the state, and yet again, the Poultry Association has led by example, showing us what it means to be a good neighbor.

Indiana Veterans and Hoosier Service

Hoosiers could have no better neighbors than the residents at the Indiana Veterans' Home in Lafayette. I spent Veterans' Day with these impressive people. The Veterans' Home is an important part of who we are as Hoosiers. It's our opportunity "to serve those who served" and providing the best possible service to them is the least we can do to honor them for all they've done and to show them how grateful we are. Hoosier Veterans continue to keep Indiana strong.



Lt. Governor Skillman accepts a hand made bouquet from Indiana Veterans' Home resident, Charles "Charlie" Hovey.

During November, I joined several organizations that are keeping Indiana strong in their own ways. I hosted the Girl Scouts Leadership Luncheon - an impressive event that I look forward to repeating next year, and I spoke at the opening of the [Brownsburg Senior Academy](#). Both events were focused on the future of young Hoosiers, as is the United Negro College Fund.

As one of the honorary co-chairs of UNCF-Indiana's annual fundraiser, I had a wonderful time at their annual masked ball. The masks were beautiful and ornate, and the celebration was another wonderful opportunity to focus on the important work of the UNCF and the bright futures they're building for young Hoosier students.

November was a full month. And even though there are only four more weeks on 2009, I intend to put every last minute to good use for Hoosiers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Skillman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Becky" and last name "Skillman" clearly legible.

Interested in learning more about the work of Lt. Governor Skillman?
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